

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1043

By Ms. St. Fleur of Boston, petition of Marie P. St. Fleur and others for legislation to establish an advisory committee on education policy to provide for the coordination and effectiveness of the public education system of the Commonwealth. Education.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Marie P. St. Fleur | Barbara A. L'Italien |
| Peter J. Larkin    | Kathleen M. Teahan   |
| Bruce E. Tarr      |                      |

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ENHANCING THE COORDINATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATE'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby further amended by striking  
3 out section 2, and inserting in place thereof the following  
4 section:—

5 Section 2. There shall be an advisory committee on education  
6 policy, hereinafter called the committee. The committee shall be  
7 composed of 21 members consisting of the following: the chan-  
8 cellor of higher education, ex officio; the chairman of the board of  
9 higher education, ex officio; the commissioner of education, ex  
10 officio; the chairman of the board of education, ex officio; the  
11 commissioner of early education and care, ex officio; the  
12 chairman of the board of early education and care, ex officio; the  
13 house chairman of the joint committee on education, arts, and  
14 humanities, ex officio; the senate chairman of the joint committee  
15 on education, arts and humanities, ex officio; two members of the  
16 senate one of whom shall be appointed by and serve at the plea-  
17 sure of the senate president, and one whom shall be appointed by

18 and serve at the pleasure of the senate minority leader; two mem-  
19 bers of the house of representative, one of whom shall be  
20 appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the speaker of the house,  
21 and one of whom shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure  
22 of the house minority leader; the president of the university of  
23 Massachusetts, ex officio; and 8 members appointed by and  
24 serving at the pleasure of the governor, consisting of the  
25 following: one president of a state college, one president of a  
26 community college, 3 representatives from the state's kindergarten  
27 through grade 12 public education system, one representative  
28 from early education and care, one representative from the busi-  
29 ness community, and one representative from organized labor.  
30 The committee shall serve as an advisory body to the board of  
31 early education and care, the board of education, and the board of  
32 higher education. It shall have the following powers and duties:

33 (a) to study and report on issues common to higher education,  
34 public early childhood, elementary, secondary, vocational-tech-  
35 nical education, and lifelong learning;

36 (b) to serve as a forum for discussion between the lay boards  
37 responsible for overseeing public education in the commonwealth  
38 and between those involved in the future of public education;

39 (c) to serve as a public forum for discussion of general educa-  
40 tion goals for the commonwealth;

41 (d) to develop goals for a coordinated system from early child-  
42 hood through higher education at the university level and lifelong  
43 learning, and make recommendations to appropriate boards or  
44 groups relative to such;

45 (e) to build public support and understanding of education;

46 (f) to encourage and facilitate partnerships between and among  
47 public early childhood, elementary, secondary, and vocational-  
48 technical schools with institutions of higher learning, and to pro-  
49 mote collaboration among public higher education institutions;

50 (g) to articulate, through study and discussions, the vital con-  
51 nection between high quality public education and future eco-  
52 nomic growth and development in the commonwealth;

53 (h) to encourage and facilitate partnerships between and among  
54 public schools, higher education institutions, businesses, and  
55 workforce development entities to improve the delivery of educa-  
56 tional and workforce development services;

57 (i) to articulate goals for accountability and high standards of  
58 quality for the entire system of education in the commonwealth, in  
59 consultation with parents, students, educators, business represen-  
60 tatives, community officials and the public at-large;

61 (j) to review and provide general advice to the board of early  
62 education and care, the board of education, the board of higher  
63 education on education issues, including, but not limited to, oper-  
64 ating budgets and capital outlay recommendations prior to sub-  
65 mission to the governor and the general court;

66 (k) to advise the governor and the general court relative to any  
67 issue within its purview;

68 (l) to encourage contributions and grants to schools from busi-  
69 nesses, foundations, or any other viable and appropriate funding  
70 source.

71 The committee may utilize subcommittees of the full committee  
72 to accomplish any of the duties required of it. Nothing in this  
73 section shall be construed to grant the committee any authority  
74 vested in the board of early education and care, the board of edu-  
75 cation, or the board of higher education.

76 The committee shall, at least once every 2 years, elect one of its  
77 members to serve as the chairman of the committee. The com-  
78 mittee shall meet at least 4 times annually, and at other times at  
79 the call of the chairman of the committee, or a majority of the  
80 members of the committee. The committee shall also meet at  
81 least twice annually with the board of early education and care,  
82 the board of education, and the board of higher education.

83 No member of the committee shall be found to be in violation  
84 of section 6 of chapter 268A for conduct which involves his par-  
85 ticipation, as a member of the committee, in a particular matter  
86 before the committee which may affect the financial interest of an  
87 early education and care program, public school or district, or  
88 institution of public higher education with which he is affiliated;  
89 provided, however, that said member, his immediate family or  
90 partner, has no personal and direct financial interest in said partic-  
91 ular matter; and provided, further, that such affiliation is disclosed  
92 to said committee and recorded in any minutes of the committee.